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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6175

April 18, 2012

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As the Ranking Member on the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, I know very well that ensuring the safe use of nuclear energy is an extremely serious job. That is why Congress established an independent commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), in 1974 and charged five commissioners with the responsibility to protect public health and safety. The public is best served by a commission that functions collectively and collegially to pool their expertise – that is why I'm anxious to see progress on the re-nomination of Commissioner Svinicki.

Her term expires in June, and given the scope of issues before the Commission, it is important that the agency continues to benefit from her valuable expertise. Just over a year has passed since the Fukushima nuclear accident and rules are currently being implemented domestically for safety measures to build off of the lessons learned.

It is my understanding that her paperwork is in your possession and has been thoroughly reviewed. In fact, the documentation has been complete for over a year. I am concerned that further delay will not allow sufficient time to move Commissioner Svinicki's nomination through the Senate to ensure her term can continue uninterrupted.

Time and time again, Commissioner Svinicki has proven that she is an experienced, responsible, and fair regulator. Before her appointment in 2008, she had well over 20 years experience on Capitol Hill as an engineer and civil servant and had drawn praise from both Democrats and Republicans. Her voting record at the NRC demonstrates that she is a sensible and objective policymaker with a strong dedication to safety, and her collaboration with her colleagues at the Commission displays an admirable capacity to produce bipartisan results. In fact, during a March EPW hearing Senator Carper (D-DE), Chairman of the Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee, commented on Commissioner Svinicki's situation by stating "My hope is that she will be reconfirmed and I expect to support her."

The NRC has always been best run when there is a broad range of views and ideas expressed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Svinicki brings a rationale presence and stability to the NRC. If this administration is serious about an "all of the above" energy

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approach which includes nuclear, as you have indicated previously, it is clear that the NRC will play a vital role in that vision. Commissioner Svinicki's knowledge of nuclear energy is surpassed only by her dedication to serving the public. For these reasons, I urge you to re-nominate Commissioner Svinicki for another term and I will urge Chairman Boxer to ensure a timely confirmation.

Sincerely,

James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works